

Message Text

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ACTION L-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 IO-10 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01

CIAE-00 COA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07

NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-03 RSC-01 OES-03 SS-15 SP-02

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 DOTE-00 FMC-01 CG-00 DLOS-03 H-01

INT-05 /102 W

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R 070950Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8999

INFO AMEMBASSY KJAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USUN NEW YORK 525

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS, EWWT, MY, SN, ID, JA

SUBJ: JAPANESE VIEWS ON TRIPARTITE MALACCA STRAIT MEETING

REF: K.L. 646

1. EMBOFFS FEB 7 MET WITH JAPANESE EMBASSY FIRST AND SECOND SECRETARIES (TOMIKAWA AND SASAKI) TO ASSESS STATE OF PLAY ON FORTHCOMING IMS MEETING ON MALACCA STRAIT (REFTEL). THEIR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT MEETING WILL BE HELD FEB 18-19 IN SINGAPORE, WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS' PREPARATORY MEETING FEB 17. JAPANESE BELIEVE IT IS POSSIBLE THAT AGREEMENT ON TONNAGE OR DRAFT LIMITATION FOR TANKERS WILL BE REACHED, BUT GOS POSITION IS PIVOTAL

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IN THIS REGARD. JAPANESE EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT IS THAT GOS,

WHILE ADMITTING DESIRABILITY OF PREVENTING RECURRENCE OF SERIOUS OIL SPILL, WILL WITHHOLD AGREEMENT ON TRIPARTITE IMPOSITION OF LIMIT, PERHAPS SUGGESTING FURTHER IMS CONSULTATIONS WITH GOJ ON VOLUNTARY LIMITATION.

2. RE ALTERNATE TANKER ROUTE THROUGH MAKASSAR AND LOMBOK STRAITS, JAPANESE EMBOFFS EXPRESSED APPREHENSION THAT GOI MAY BE ENTERTAINING SCHEME TO BUILD OIL STORAGE DEPOTS IN THAT AREA, REQUIRING LARGE TANKERS TO OFFLOAD OIL, THEN SHIPPING IT ONWARD TO JAPAN IN SMALLER SHIPS. ALTERNATIVELY, GOI MIGHT IMPOSE "TOLL" TO OBTAIN REVENUE FROM JAPANESE OIL TRADE. NONETHELESS, GOJ IS GOING AHEAD WITH HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY OF MAKASSAR-LOMBOK ROUTE, FIELD WORK TO BE COMPLETED BY END OF THIS YEAR.

3. COMMENT: JAPANESE EMBOFFS DID NOT APPEAR TO BE OVERLY CONCERNED THAT LIMITATION ON TANKER SIZE FOR MALACCA STRAIT WOULD RESULT FROM TRIPARTITE MEETING. OF RELATIVELY MORE CONCERN WERE POSSIBLE INDONESIAN EFFORTS TO PUT CONTROLS ON ALTERNATE MAKASSAR-LOMBOK STRAIT ROUTE. WE AGREED TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH JAPANESE EMBOFFS ON ANY DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING TRIPARTITE MEETING. UNDERHILL

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